

MAYORS OF HEBER CITY



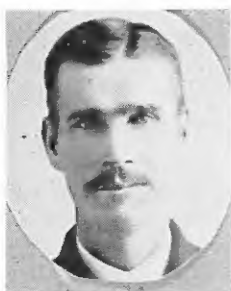
James W. Clyde



Joseph A. Rasband



Joseph R. Murdock



John E. Moulton



Edward D. Clyde



H. Ray Hatch



John A. Fortie



Elisha J. Duke



J. E. McMullin

for only \$150, stipulating that the land should be subdivided into city lots and sold to raise money to support the city schools.

The land was appraised by Thomas H. Giles, Probate Judge, Abram Hatch, Bishop of the Church and Thomas Rasband, trustee for the schools. These appraisers met several different times to consider the prices to be asked for the lots and finally on August 29, 1876 decided that the prices would range from \$12 to \$20 per lot depending on the exact size. The average lot was 10 by 12 rods in size.

The surveyors who laid out the first lots in Heber City used the best

CHAPTER ELEVEN

Government for the Future

Government, designed to do for groups of people what they cannot do for themselves individually, has been the political tradition through the years in Heber City. Large political organizations or bureaucratic operations have been non-existent, as those elected to office have sought only one goal: to make Heber a better place in which to live.

Settlers who first came to the valley were schooled in the righteous principles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and easily governed themselves. As the community grew, Church leaders assumed the role of directing civic as well as religious matters. Then the two areas began to separate in their needs and government officials came into the picture.

As outlined in Chapter 4 the first government unit in the valley came with the organization of Wasatch County by the Territorial Legislature on January 17, 1862. Major officers of the county government were a probate judge and selectmen. These officials, along with other assistants, directed the activities of all communities in the county until 1889 when Heber City was organized as a township, followed in 1891 by Midway and then by the other communities in later years.

One of the first governmental services afforded residents of the new settlement came even before many settlers arrived in the valley. During June of 1859, Jesse Fuller, deputy county surveyor of Utah County, came to the valley and surveyed the new location. He established the initial point of the community at the north end of Main Street on a west side lot long known as George W. Clyde's corner.

The Fuller survey plotted blocks 24 rods square, with the streets designated as five rods wide. Each block was divided into four lots 12 rods square. This first survey included a tract eight blocks south of the initial point and five and one-half blocks west, making the townsite three quarters of a mile long and one-half mile wide.

The first homes built in the settlement in 1859 and 1860 were in the fort area which comprised 80 square rods between what is now First West and Fourth West streets and Second North and Fifth North Streets.

A few months after the west part of Heber was surveyed, the east area of the townsite was laid out, with Main Street left as seven rods wide. The southern part of Heber City was at first homesteaded by Jonathan Clegg, and included an area a mile long and a quarter of a mile wide. In 1875 Mr. Clegg sold three 40-acre sections to Wasatch County

streets as a safety precaution. E. J. Duke and E. Parley Cliff were appointed to meet with club members to discuss the matter. It was some two years and several accidents later, however, before the poles were finally moved.

One of Heber City's leading physicians, Dr. H. Ray Hatch, became the community's mayor in the election of 1915. Chosen to serve with Dr. Hatch on the city council were G. Frank Ryan, four-year councilman; E. J. Duke, Isaac Jacobs, George M. Jorgensen and Parley A. Murdock. Later, Mr. Jorgensen moved from the city and John A. Anderson was appointed in May of 1916 to fill the vacancy. J. E. McMullin was elected recorder and Alfred Sharp was treasurer.

John A. Fortie became mayor in 1918 after winning the election the previous Fall. George Smith, Joseph A. Murdock, J. Fred Giles and Abe Turner comprised the city council, while Sylvan Rasband was treasurer and J. E. McMullin the recorder.

Taking office as mayor in 1920 was E. J. Duke. John H. Miller was four-year councilman with Moroni Moulton, George Smith, J. W. Mahoney and Andrew Murdock two-year councilmen. Douglas Giles was recorder and Emer Murdock, treasurer.

E. J. Duke again served as mayor during 1922 and 1923 with J. W. Giles, Heber G. Crook, L. D. Greenwood and J. Claud Hicken as members of the council. J. E. McMullin was recorder and Elmer Strong, treasurer.

In the election of 1923 J. E. McMullin won the mayoralty race, fulfilling a long time dream. While still a young man he had developed a desire to some day lead the affairs of the city.

"When in my early teens," he wrote, "and attending Central School, I had a deep desire to become Mayor of Heber City someday. I was so impressed with the idea I even chose my councilmen."

When he actually became mayor in 1924, two of his councilmen were among those he had previously considered. They were Jesse R. Nelson and J. W. Giles. Other councilmen were John H. Miller, Albert Dickson and T. Henry Moulton. J. Sylvan Rasband was recorder and Elmer Strong, treasurer.

During his first term, Mayor McMullin spearheaded the drive to organize the Heber Volunteer Fire Department. The area's first motorized fire engine was purchased in 1924 and "initiated" at a fire on Sept. 17, 1925, when hay, grain and straw belonging to Thomas, Erwin and Don Rasband began to burn in a field on the Charleston Road. The fire started from a spark from a threshing machine.

On Sept. 21, 1925 the city council passed an ordinance creating the official fire department and providing for fire inspection. The council also hired John Barnes at \$15 a quarter to sound the fire siren each morning at 7 a.m. as a time regulator.

The first members of the fire department included Frank W. Hardy,

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construction and engineering work, and Charles Bonner was the first plant operator. Mr. Bonner served at the plant until 1960 when Glen Horrocks succeeded him.

Through the years the Heber Light and Power plant has been a very successful venture, in spite of outside commercial competition. Total assets in 1958 were in excess of \$500,000.

When Mayor Clyde began his second term in 1910 he had councilmen John E. Moulton, finishing a four-year term, David Fisher, Robert Duke, Richard Jones and J. W. Crook, two-year councilmen; Joseph A. Murdock, recorder and J. R. Price, treasurer.

Popularity continued with Mayor Clyde in the November, 1911 election, and he was re-elected for an unprecedented third term. John H. Hicken was elected as four-year councilman and John E. Moulton, Joseph A. Rasband, E. J. Duke and David Fisher won two-year council posts. Joseph A. Murdock continued as recorder with Lucinda Buys as treasurer and Fred L. Clegg as justice of the peace.

With the coming of Spring in 1913 Mayor Clyde and the council proposed that sidewalks between 4th North and 4th South Streets and along Center Street be paved. They also took steps to grade and gravel two blocks of roadway on Main Street during the summer.

John E. Moulton, who had served several previous terms on the council, was elected mayor in the November, 1913 election. Serving with him were John H. Hicken, hold-over councilman, Joseph A. Rasband, John H. Murdock and William Coleman, two-year councilmen; Joseph A. Murdock, recorder and Lucinda Buys, treasurer.

The Spring of 1914 brought a petition before the council signed by members of the Parents' Class in the Heber Third Ward requesting that a time be set apart as "Gravel Day." The Council apparently felt the need for such a project because it was moved and carried that three such days be set apart to give citizens an ample opportunity to bring gravel to their areas without getting in each other's way.

David A. Broadbent and Lavina Murdock also represented the same class of the other two Heber wards in presenting suggestions for the betterment and beautification of the city cemetery.

On February 3, 1915, the community was saddened by the death of Mayor Moulton. William Coleman was appointed acting head of the council and worked with merchants in the community to close their places of business as a tribute to the mayor on the day of the funeral services.

The council met on March 6, 1915 to consider candidates to replace the late Mayor Moulton, and after considerable discussion nominated Edward D. Clyde who was selected by unanimous vote.

An entry from the council meeting minutes of March 27, 1915, is indicative of the changing times. Originally the city had placed electric utility poles in the center of city streets. Now they had been petitioned by members of the Automobile Club to move the poles to the sides of the